



Martin Buhr has met good contacts with Rwanda and the country and people since his youth work.

Only through contact with Fideline Uwambadajimana did Martin become aware of a problem that he had not recognized so far and is not visible from the tradition of the population.

Fideline is a single mother who raises her daughter of 8 years alone. She was depressed when she got pregnant and the man left her alone. For the first time, she felt that it is a big mistake in her country to give birth to a baby unmarried.

As a single woman, you no longer have access to society. The child's father does not pay for maintenance, is not held accountable, says of that and the state does not set any rule.

The bad thing is that society discriminates against these women and men are not allowed to introduce these women to the family, but conversely, men with a child are accepted in every family.

Fideline had the chance to work up professionally, to be accepted and to stay independently and part of society through their income, which rarely succeeds. Most women crash and land on the street with their children. During this time she found out that too many women suffer from this unequal treatment from tradition and without social help.

Fideline decided to make the organization "Womancan" visible and to address mothers. It turned out to be too many that have become pregnant and thereby live in poverty. Due to the lack of residence, the children leave school and are rejected by their family.

The most important thing would be to rethink society that a single mother experiences the same appreciation as a wife with children and men. The situation in Rwanda is like them in Europe 100 years ago.

There are some principles in Rwanda that are practiced very differently in men and women

Most families do not accept a woman with a child (divorced, widowed or single parent).

She is not accepted in the family's own or the family of the new man.

She should even accommodate the marital child or not marital where to be able to marry the new man.

The state does not support such women and children who have often come into this situation through young people. Even if she was loved and loved, the Rwandan man often moves away. Usually the man is not held accountable or responsibility. A integration into society or a marriage is therefore impossible for these women.

With the single fathers, it is normal for him to find a partner and close a new marriage.

Love and marriage are completely different for men and women to be disadvantageous for the woman.

In Germany we have such conservative families in the minority and in Rwanda at 80 %.

It must be a political task of the state through advertisements, advertising on TV, to draw attention to this injustice in social media. The mental and financial burden ultimately leads to the street.



At the pandemic woman-can invite children from unmarried mother to get help

Of the 13.5 million inhabitants, there are no precise numbers of how many women are affected and suffer from the fact that they are no longer accepted in families.

Influencers should draw attention to the fact that this situation exists and gains in importance to rethink among the population.

Often single women have no smartphone and cannot be felt.

Fideline Uwambadajimana tried to contact the government with the Woman-can project and make financial support so that women come off the street with the children. The state must make it clear that single mothers, like other mothers, have to be treated in order to be accepted in society.

The challenges that are among single mothers consist of 5 categories:

- Inequality in the handling of the sexes.**
- Uncertainty of the future due to poverty,**
- Social integration,**
- Disclosure of the male partner**
- Problems with health insurance,**

The most difficult of a single mother is to know that hope, dreams from this prejudice are not true and in the face of enormous fear no escape seems possible.

To join others who recognize and empathize this injustice, including their children, would be the opportunity to show the state this problem of poverty. These women have no smartphones to comment and point out the situation.

We meet my team Woman-can with single mothers whose children live on the street, we buy clothes, cooked together in the sector office and discussed the formation of these children and their future and try to make it clear to the population.

Martin Buhr August 2023